



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council

**Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Dean Antipas, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Patrice Granatosky, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, and Harry A. Watson**

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Tuesday, October 6, 2015

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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#### I. ROLL CALL

*Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at approximately 8:15 pm.*

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Granatosky, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Watson and Councilor Antipas

Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.*

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor de la Cruz.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

##### 2015-0244 Proclamation Recognizing Alexis Bastien Conant

Read

*The proclamation was read by Councilor Frink.*

#### IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, Mystic, addressed the Town Council on various budget issues. She stated that every year for more than 8 years, the Town Council or the RTM has asked the Town Manager to reduce the budget without giving him any direction as to where and what to cut. She suggested that Capital Improvement Projects be scaled back. She also suggested that any approved projects that haven't been started be halted and the appropriated funds be returned to the General Fund. She offered policy changes for employees. She distributed a copy of page 46 from the 2016 Town Budget Book that lists the projected increase for 2017 to be 7.2% and an increase in 2018 of 11.4%. She pointed out that there was a 4.1% increase for 2016 and that this adds up to a 24.3% increase in 3 years. She stated that the Town has a \$5,000,000 budget deficit going into 2017 and that this should be the first priority of both the Board of Education and the Town Council.*

*Fred Kent, 120 Warren Avenue, Mystic, stated that the Town taxes have continued to increase at a pace greater than the projected 1.04%, as depicted in the FYE 2016 Budget. He stated that the increase has actually been 24.3% in 4 years. On another subject, he requested that the Town Council consider allowing citizens access to discarded wood that is left at the Town Landfill. He suggested that the larger pieces be cut into portable sizes for citizens to cart away. He stated that this would be a better use for the logs compared to grinding them into wood chips.*

#### V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*Councilor Watson discussed the large logs at the Landfill and stated that he agreed that it would be a good idea to let citizens use the wood for heating their homes. He stated that he will follow up on this suggestion.*

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

##### a. Approval of Minutes

**2015-0243 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

## RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of September 15, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**b. Administrative Items****2015-0225 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

## RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Mystic Photography Group - \$25.00 - Library Renovations

Peter Wilson - \$10.00 - Library Renovations

Robert & Phyllis Boggs - \$15.53 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Marian Galbraith - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Fred & Gail Yeo - \$150.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List****2015-0220 Discussion of Town Council Rules**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2015-0226 Norcross Wildlife Foundation Grant**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2015-0227 Groton Education Foundation Grant - Senior Center**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2015-0234 Reauthorization of CIP Funds for Replacement Workstation Console Tables in Emergency Communications Center**

Tabled

**2015-0235 Chelsea Groton Foundation Grant - Parks and Recreation**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2015-0236 Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program - Additional Roads For Calendar Year 2015**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2015-0237 Preliminary Results of Operations - FYE 2015**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2015-0239 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Grant**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2015-0242 Capital Campaign Services Associated with the Procurement of the USS Groton Sail**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Antipas, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)****a. Town Councilors**

Councilor Antipas received an email regarding the sale of the William Seely School property. He reported that he sent an email to the Town Council with his report on the Board of Education Teacher's Contract negotiations.

Councilor Granatosky received the same letter from Mr. Suarez regarding the sale of the William Seely School property.

Councilor Flax stated that he received the same email, and another email regarding the Stonington Institute's Zoning Board of Appeals case and stating the willingness to come to an agreement to avoid a lawsuit.

Councilor de la Cruz reported that he attended an Out Reach Meeting on September 30, 2015 and the Unite to Face Addiction rally in Washington D.C. on October 4, 2015. He announced that the Family Addiction Support Group will have their next meeting at the Groton Public Library on October 28, 2015 at 6:00 pm. He reported that the City and Town Police Chiefs are working together to develop a program similar to the Gloucester, Massachusetts Angel Program to help citizens with drug addictions.

Councilor Frink attended a neighborhood walk of the Walker Hill residential area and the William Seely School with Mr. Shelton on September 18, 2015. He attended his mother's 97th Birthday on September 27, 2015, the Economic Development Commission meeting on October 1, 2015, and the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee meeting on October 5, 2015. He announced that Groton has been selected by the Business in Focus magazine to be spotlighted for an economic and business development promotional story in the December edition.

Councilor Moravsik attended the SEAT monthly meeting on September 16, 2015, the Boating Advisory Board monthly meeting on September 17, 2015, a meeting with Walker Hill Road resident Tom Potter and Mrs. Potter on September 22, 2015, the U.S.S. Groton Steering Committee meeting on September 23, 2015, the Law Enforcement Night at the Groton Elks on September 26, 2015, a Special SEAT meeting on September 29, 2015, the Mystic Business Pirate Invasion event on October 3 and 4, 2015, and a meeting with the Department of Health Services on October 5, 2015. He reported that he had received the same emails as the other Town Councilors.

Councilor Watson reported that he helped the Shellfish Commission stock the Poquonnock River with legal-sized clams and quahogs.

Mayor Schmidt reported that she attended the Council of Governments (COG) meeting on September 16, 2015, the Schools Facilities Task Force meeting on September 22, 2015, the Sub base Century Planning meetings on September 23, 25, and October 2, 2015, the U.S.S. Groton Steering Committee meeting on September 23, 2015, the Eagle Scout Ceremony for Alexis Conant on September 25, 2015, the Groton Elk's Club Police Officer of the Year Award on September 25, 2015, the meeting with the Department of Health regarding Groton Ambulance on October 5, 2015, and the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee meeting on October 5, 2015.

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

The Town Clerk reported that the October 14, 2015 regular RTM meeting has been cancelled due to the lack of business. Their next regular meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2015.

**c. Clerk of the Council**

The Town Clerk reported that the Absentee Ballots for the November 3, 2015 Municipal Election are available at the Town Clerk's Office. She stated that any elector who will not be available to vote in person during the voting hours on election day may vote by Absentee Ballot. She announced the phone number of the Clerk's Office as a means to obtain an application for an Absentee Ballot. She distributed the Explanatory Text for the Ordinance that is on the ballot to the

*Councilors. She explained that the Explanatory Text will be delivered to every household in the Town of Groton on October 22, 2015. She stated that the full Ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.*

**d. Town Manager**

*The Town Manager announced that the Thanksgiving Distribution will be held on Friday, November 20, 2015 and the December Holiday Distribution will be held on Friday, December 18, 2015. He announced that Governor Malloy has designated October 2015 through October 2016 as Connecticut's Submarine Century for a year-long observance that celebrates 100 years of submarine activity in Connecticut. He highlighted other items for the Weekly Status Report. He discussed possible agenda items for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Finance - Chairman Frink**

*No meeting, no report.*

**c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax**

*No meeting, no report.*

**d. Rules - Chairman Frink**

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Public Safety - Chairman Moravsik**

*No meeting, no report.*

**f. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt**

*Mayor Schmidt reported that the Committee of the Whole met and discussed the items that are on the agenda.*

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**2015-0226 Norcross Wildlife Foundation Grant**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR A NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the Town's Trails Coordinating Task Force serves as an educational and advocacy group for the use and expansion of the Town's trail network, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force would like to develop a printed trail guide that would include trail etiquette, a locator map, and information on the benefits of walking and hiking, and

WHEREAS, The Norcross Wildlife Foundation Grant offers grants for program-related office and field equipment and materials and public-education materials, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designee is authorized to apply for a Norcross Wildlife Foundation Grant in the amount of \$2,300 to hire a graphic designer to layout a trail brochure and to print 1,000 copies that will be sold at a nominal fee to cover the cost of reprinting.

**A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0227 Groton Education Foundation Grant - Senior Center**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE GROTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the Groton Education Foundation provides "mini-grants" to fund unique projects based on ideas from teachers or other educators in Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Senior Center and Claude Chester Elementary School provide intergenerational education experiences for students and seniors, and

WHEREAS, grant funds could be used for a five-month program entitled "Let's Get Crafty" that would pair seniors with third grade students to make different crafts each month, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designee may apply for a grant in the amount of \$500.00 from the Groton Educational Foundation to fund an intergenerational program to benefit children at Claude Chester School.

**A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

2015-0234

**Reauthorization of CIP Funds for Replacement Workstation Console Tables in Emergency Communications Center**

RESOLUTION REAUTHORIZING FUNDS ORIGINALLY APPROPRIATED FOR REPLACEMENT RADIO CONTROL CONSOLE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, in FYE 2013 and FYE 2014 the Town Council and RTM approved Town funding in the amount of \$695,000 for a Replacement Radio Control Console System project, and

WHEREAS, unexpended funds in the amount of \$55,000 are expected to remain in account 50103 5536G upon completion of the project, and

WHEREAS, the Town is proposing to replace eight workstation console tables in the Emergency Communications Center, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$50,000 designated for the Replacement Radio Control Console System be reauthorized to purchase eight replacement workstation console tables for the Emergency Communications Center.

Refer to RTM.

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Tabled.**

*Councilor Moravsik moved the resolution for approval, seconded by Councilor Frink.*

*Councilor Flax stated that he does not support the amount of money requested to purchase the work tables. He explained that he is not voting against the motion because he doubts the needs. He stated that it is too much money.*

*Councilor Antipas agreed that this is too much money for the work tables.*

*Councilor Moravsik explained that the 8 tables were installed in 1979 and that 7 tables are being propped up with wooden yard sticks and plywood. He stated that the tables are in desperate need of replacement and that 7 out of the 8 work stations are no longer operable.*

*Mayor Schmidt stated that replacement parts are no longer available and that only one table is operable at this time.*

*Councilor Granatosky stated that she will also vote against this expenditure. She stated that not all tables are in use at the same time and that they should consider replacing no more than four at this time.*

*Councilor de la Cruz questioned the cost estimates. He stated that he would like more information.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the project will bid off the State's required bid list. He stated that 7 tables are non-functioning and that the current estimates are based on catalogue prices.*

*Councilor Frink amended the motion to \$30,000. There was no second to the motion, therefore the motion failed.*

*Councilor Watson moved to table the resolution until the next Town Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Flax.*

*Councilor Flax asked the Town Manager to have the Purchasing Agent provide pricing information for the work tables.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0235**

**Chelsea Groton Foundation Grant - Parks and Recreation**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHELSEA GROTON FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Chelsea Groton Foundation, Inc. offers grants to scientific, educational and charitable organizations located within the bank's market area, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department is seeking permission to apply for a \$16,000 grant to fund recreation program scholarships for families with financial need, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designee is authorized to apply for a \$16,000 grant from the Chelsea Groton Foundation for recreation program scholarships for families with financial need.

**A motion was made by Councilor Granatosky, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0236**

**Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program - Additional Roads For Calendar Year 2015**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL ROADS IN THE TOWN'S YEAR 3 ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in November 2012 Groton voters approved a five-year road maintenance and rehabilitation program for calendar years 2013 through 2017 that provides funding for the Town, City, and Groton Long Point to maintain and rehabilitate the community's road system, and

WHEREAS, the program requires each entity to file a report with the Town Council by December 30th of each year that identifies the roads completed in the calendar year, compares estimated costs to actual costs, and identifies the roads to be addressed in the upcoming year, and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has asked to add a portion of Briar Hill Road to the roads previously authorized by the Town Council for the Year 3 program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the addition of a portion of Briar Hill Road to the Year 3 Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program for the Town of Groton.

**A motion was made by Councilor de la Cruz, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0239**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Grant**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT A NOAA CLIMATE AND SOCIETAL INTERACTION PROGRAM GRANT

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has studied and planned for climate change and hazard mitigation, and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is offering a Climate and Societal Interaction Program grant entitled "Improving Coastal Community Resilience from the Group Up," and

WHEREAS, this grant program will assist the Town in its preparedness for extreme weather events, and

WHEREAS, the Town is partnering with UCONN, other universities, municipal organizations, and state organizations to apply for the grant, with UCONN being the lead agency, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign the NOAA Climate and Societal Interaction Program grant as a co-applicant.

**A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 7 - Mayor Schmidt, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Granatosky, Councilor Moravsik and Councilor Watson  
Abstain: 1 - Councilor Antipas

**2015-0242**

**Capital Campaign Services Associated with the Procurement of the USS Groton Sail**

AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SERVICES TO PROCURE THE USS GROTON SAIL

WHEREAS, the committee investigating the procurement of the USS Groton sail has reviewed a proposal by a consultant, Harvest Development Group, LLC, to conduct capital campaign services, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the first nine months of the 24-month study is \$45,000 and includes forgiveness of the \$10,000 receivable for the previously contracted feasibility study, and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton has indicated a willingness to share the costs equally and will commit \$22,500 to hire the consultant, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign the above-noted proposal and that the Town's share (\$22,500) of the required funding come from the following functions:

1001 Legislative Policy - \$2,500  
1010 Executive Management - \$15,000  
1046 Planning and Development Services - \$5,000

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0245**

**Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program - Additional Roads For Calendar Year 2015 - City of Groton**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL ROADS IN THE CITY'S YEAR 3 ROAD

## MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in November 2012 Groton voters approved a five-year road maintenance and rehabilitation program for calendar years 2013 through 2017 that provides funding for the Town, City, and Groton Long Point to maintain and rehabilitate the community's road system, and

WHEREAS, the program requires each entity to file a report with the Town Council by December 30th of each year that identifies the roads completed in the calendar year, compares estimated costs to actual costs, and identifies the roads to be addressed in the upcoming year, and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton has asked to add Litton Avenue to the roads previously authorized by the Town Council for the Year 3 program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the addition of Litton Avenue to the Year 3 Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program for the City of Groton.

**A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Frink, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0246**

**Authorization for Signatory Responsibilities under RCSA Section 22a-449(c)-110 for Hazardous Materials Management, DEEP**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO DESIGNATE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY FOR NOTIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FORM FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS AT VARIOUS TOWN FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regulates underground storage tanks at various facilities under RCSA Section 22a-449(d)-1, and Sections 22a-449(d) 101-113 and Amendments to RCSA Regarding Underground Storage Tanks, Section 22a-449(d)-1, 22a-449(d)-101, 22a-449(d)-102, and 22a449(d)-108, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut General Assembly has revised annual notification requirements under Public Act 15-1 to require electronic filing effective October 1, 2015, and

WHEREAS, an authorized employee of the owner of an underground storage tank must submit a Subscriber Agreement that designates the individual duly authorized to submit electronic filings, and

WHEREAS, Gary J. Schneider, the Director of Public Works, is fully qualified and knowledgeable regarding the Town's underground storage tanks (not including Board of Education), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to sign a Subscriber Agreement that confers signatory responsibilities under RCSA Section 22a-449(c)-110 the Hazardous Waste Permit Program incorporating 40 CFR 270.11(a) for Signatories to Permit Applications and Reports to the Director of Public Works.

**A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0247**

**Proposed Settlement with Green Mountain and Arcadis**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT REGARDING SEWER LINE ADJACENT TO 697 NOANK ROAD, MYSTIC

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2015, the Town Council met in executive session with the Town Manager and Town Attorney to discuss strategy and negotiations, including possible settlement discussions, related to pending litigation or pending claims concerning the services of Green

Mountain Pipeline Services and Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. (now known as Arcadis) and damages related to the sewer line adjacent to 697 Noank Road, Mystic, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that

1. The Town Manager and Town Attorney are hereby authorized to negotiate a settlement agreement between the Town of Groton, Green Mountain Pipeline Services and Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. (now known as Arcadis) pertaining to damages related to the sewer line adjacent to 697 Noank Road, Mystic (Groton), Connecticut, based on parameters discussed during said Executive Session; and

2. If such a settlement is negotiated, the Town Manager is hereby authorized to accept and execute the settlement agreement on behalf of the Town of Groton once approved by the Town Attorney, and to perform all acts ancillary thereto.

**A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

#### **X. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Councilor Granatosky cited a newspaper article highlighting the Groton School Board proposal to rent schools to raise revenue for educational programs. She suggested that this issue be taken to the Town/City Councils/RTM/BOE Liaison Committee. She would like the Town to consider moving the Town employees' health insurance to the State Health Care Program. She asked for this item to be referred to the Finance Committee. Mayor Schmidt stated that she will contact the State Comptroller to get more information.*

*Councilor Flax suggested, as an alternative to reusing Fitch Middle School, that the building on the corner of Route 117 and Fort Hill Road be considered for purchase and to be used for Town Hall office space. He stated that the building is currently for sale.*

*Councilor Antipas distributed a memorandum that he developed as a budgetary aide. It includes budgetary information and explanations of terms and calculations used in the budget process. He asked that this document be considered as a Town Council Budget Policy Proposal to be used for FYE 2017 Budget. He asked to have the proposal referred to the Finance Committee for review.*

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Councilor Flax to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Watson. Seeing no objections, Mayor Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 9:26 pm.*